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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
CASTLE WARD

Annual Reports

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR AND

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

For 1958



I

Telephone - - - - - PONTESLAND 2372-6

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1958.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I again have the honour to present the Annual Report.

The population of the Rural District continued on its steady rise, increasing by 860 in 1958 to the Registrar General's estimated mid-year population of 19,550.

The vital statistics for the district showed no significant change. The number of births increased by 68, showing in part, the influx of a somewhat younger population. The deaths at first sight had increased, but this increase was entirely in deaths at the chronic institutions situated in the district and deaths of residents had actually slightly decreased.

The infant mortality rate was a little higher than the previous year. Seven deaths of infants under one year of age being recorded as against 6 in 1957. The rate for both years was below that for the country.

The individual causes of death were similar to those of previous years. There was a slight increase in deaths due to vascular lesions of the nervous system and also of deaths from pneumonia. The latter were chiefly in males and occurred during the first quarter of the year, following the prevalence of influenza in late 1957 and the early weeks of 1958. It is encouraging to note the decrease in accidents, those from motor vehicle causes dropped to 2 from 3, in 1957 and 4, in 1956 and those from all other accidents dropped to 6 from 11, the previous year.

No death from suicide occurred for the first time in five years.

Little change showed in the number of deaths from malignant neoplasm except those of the lungs and bronchi which decreased to almost half the number in 1957.

For the second year in succession no death from any form of Tuberculosis was registered. The incidence of pulmonary tubercle rose to 8 from 5, in 1957 and that of non-pulmonary tubercle decreased from 3 in 1957 to 1, in 1958. This decline in mortality and gradual decrease in incidence conforms to the national trend.

The number of inward transfers of tuberculosis per annum has been pointed out in previous reports. Since 1952, 62 such transfers have taken place and this will, no doubt, continue in the future with the erection of new housing estates.

Your health department co-operates with the chest clinic and county services in the care and after-care of the tuberculous and their families, particularly as regards housing conditions.

For the first time, the mobile unit of the Mass Radiography Service visited the district and held sessions at three salient points. The Officials of your department worked with those of the Unit in making this visit known to the public.

Infectious disease incidences showed a marked drop from 416 notifications in 1957 to 92, in 1958. This was almost entirely due to the big decrease in Measles, 379 cases being notified in 1957, the year of bi-annual increase and only 9, in 1958. The incidence of Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Pneumonia and Dysentery also slightly declined.

Steady progress continued to be made in the various activities of the department. Action on unfit houses progressed, so that of the 746 houses placed in categories 4 and 5 in the 1946 Housing Survey, a few wooden bungalows only remain to be dealt with—no mean achievement.

Regular supervision of the food premises of the district and the sampling of milk and ice-cream was carried out through the year, no formal action proving necessary. Reference has been made in previous reports to the volume of meat inspection carried out by the Public Health Inspectors in the course of a year.

With the passing of the Clean Air Act 1956, public attention has become focused on the problem of atmospheric pollution, though in this district this had already occurred, the Council being one of the pioneers through its investigation by Mr. Isaac, Senior Engineering Lecturer, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, in 1956 in the amount of pollution at Brunswick Village. It is hoped that further progress will be made in the future and eventually smoke control areas established and that the problem of emissions from spoilbanks, some of which are situated outside our district, will be dealt with on a national basis.

My sincere thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued interest and encouragement in the work of the department, to Mr. Strachan, Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Hardy, the additional Inspectors for a sustained high standard of work throughout the year, to the staff of the department and to the Clerk and other Officers of the Council for their co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

POPULATION

In 1958 the estimated mid-year population figure, supplied by the Registrar General, was 19,550, an increase of 860 on that of the previous year. During the past five years there has been an increase of 4,650 in the population of the rural district, mainly in the Brunton, Melton Park and Darras Hall districts.

BIRTHS

The births, in total, numbered 327, of which 4 were illegitimate. This was an increase of 68 on the number of births the previous year. The majority of the increase was in female births. The number of illegitimate births in both 1957 and 1956 was 6.

The birth rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) for the district was 17.4 per 1,000 of the population and that for the country generally was 16.4. The birth rate for the rural district was, therefore, in this particular year, higher than that of England and Wales. The birth rate for 1958 is the highest recorded for this district during the last eleven years.

The number of still births was 7, compared with 4 in the previous year. The still birth rate for the district per 1,000 live and still births was 21.4, the comparative rate for the country being 21.6.

DEATHS

As from 1st January, 1958, a death in a chronic sick or mental hospital is assigned to the district of occurrence only if the deceased has been there for six months or more. If less, the death is transferred to the district of usual residence, if any.

360 deaths, (195 male and 165 female), were registered in the course of the year. In the previous year 322 deaths were registered. There was a slight increase in the number of male deaths and a slight decrease in those of females. Deaths of long-term residents in Hospitals and Institutions in the district numbered 189 and if these were deducted from the total number of deaths, the deaths of residents of the district were 171. For purposes of comparison, the respective figures for the previous year were 322 total deaths, 143 of these being of long-term residents of Hospitals and Institutions, and 179 deaths of residents of the district.

The death rate, (corrected for age and sex distribution), was 11.8 per 1,000 of the population and that for England and Wales 11.7. The death rate for 1957 was 10.1 for the district, and 11.5 for the country.

INFANT MORTALITY

A total of 7 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred during the year, compared with 6 in the previous year. Six of the deaths in 1958 occurred during the first month of life and one only between the end of the first month and first year of life. Three of the infant deaths during the first month of life had prematurity as the primary cause, another had prematurity as a contributing cause, two were due to congenital abnormalities and one to haemorrhagic pneumonia.

Conforming to the present trend, there was only one death from an infective cause, the other six being due to prematurity and congenital defects.

The Infant Mortality Rate for the district was 21.4 per 1,000 live births and that for the country was 22.5. The figures for the previous year were 20.4 for the rural district and 23.0 for the country.

Further reseatch into the causes of congenital defects and their possible prevention and in ante-natal care continues to be needed.

MATERNAL MORTALTIY

No death from maternal causes was registered in 1958 ; there had been one the previous year. The rate for the country generally was 0.43 per 1,000 related births.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Deaths from " Heart and Circulatory Diseases ", of course, the largest individual group in this classification, numbered 165 (146), of which 91 occurred in Hospitals and Institutions in the district, leaving 74 deaths of residents in this group in the district. In the two previous years there had been 71 deaths of residents.

Deaths due to " Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System " were 99 in total, 67 of these being of hospital residents, therefore, 32 deaths in this classification were of residents of the district, compared with 26 in 1958.

Deaths from " Malignant Neoplasm " numbered 32 during the year, of which 11 occurred in the Hospitals. In 1958, 30 deaths under this heading were registered and 34, in 1957.

There was little change in the number of deaths registered of different sites, except that " Malignant Neoplasm of the Lung and Bronchus " decreased from 7, in 1957 to 4, in 1958.

No death from " Leukaemia " was registered.

The number of deaths from respiratory diseases generally totalled 25, of which 8 occurred in the chronic hospitals, giving 17 deaths of residents of the district in this group. Figures for the previous year were 11 of residents and 9 in chronic hospitals. There was an increase of 4 in the number of deaths from pneumonia.

One death from " Influenza " was registered.

Two deaths from " Motor Vehicle Accidents " occurred, compared with 3 in 1957, and 4, in 1956.

Deaths classified as from " All other Accidents ", which had risen considerably to a total of 11 in 1957, showed a very welcome decline to 6 in 1958. Of these 6 deaths, 5 were due to falls, 3 of them being of aged persons in one of the chronic institutions, and the other death was that of an elderly lady being accidentally gassed.

It is satisfactory to report that no death from " Suicide " occurred during the year, whereas in the previous two years there had been two deaths in each year.

II.—TUBERCULOSIS

No death from Tuberculosis (all forms) was registered during the year, as in the previous year. In 1956 and 1955 the deaths registered were 4 and 7 respectively. The provisional death rate for England and Wales in 1958 was 0.10 per 1,000 population.

The incidence of the Pulmonary form of the disease increased to a total of 8 cases from 5 the previous year. This increase was entirely among females of the 25 to 55 years age groups.

The incidence of the Non-pulmonary form of the disease decreased from 3 in 1957 to one, in 1958.

In 1958, 9 cases were notified of Tuberculosis, (all forms). In the previous year, notifications were received of 8 cases, (5 Pulmonary, 3 Non-pulmonary) and in 1956, 13 cases, (11 Pulmonary and 2 Non-pulmonary).

This is quite in keeping with the general trend of Tuberculosis throughout the country, a decline in mortality and a gradual decrease in incidence.

Again this year there were a number of Inward Transfers to the district, chiefly to the new housing estates. Altogether there were 7, compared with 11 in 1957 and 13, in 1956.

Each year the number of Inward Transfers approximates the number of new notifications and this year was no exception.

Since 1952 a total of 62 cases have come into the district, which accounts for a considerable number of the cases on the Tuberculosis Register. At least half the number of cases on the Register, the total of which is constantly changing owing to transfers and removals, is composed of these Inward Transfers during the last six years.

Patients attend the Chest Clinic, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, under the care of the Senior Chest Physician and are admitted to the various sanatoria of the region or to the Walkergate Hospital almost immediately, as required.

The surveillance of contacts and those at risk is undertaken at the the Chest Clinic and B.C.G. vaccination given in suitable cases with the parents' consent.

Home visiting is done by the Health Visitors of the county. This department co-operates with the Chest Clinic regarding the housing needs of these patients and the After-Care Committees with other requirements as necessary.

During the last three years, 7 cases in connection with the rehousing of patients suffering from Tuberculosis have been investigated. As a result, the Council have rehoused four of these families.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT.

The Mass Radiography Unit is based at the Newcastle General Hospital and is accessible to all parts of the rural area. The Mobile Unit visited this district and public sessions were held at Hazlerigg, Dinnington and Ponteland during the month of May. This was the first time the unit had been in this district and the results were as follows :—

Conforming to the present trend, there was only one death from an infective cause, the other six being due to prematurity and congenital defects.

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WHOOPIING COUGH.

Notifications of Whooping Cough rose slightly to a total of 32, from 20 in 1957 and 43, in 1956. The cases mainly occurred in Dinnington and Stamfordham and were spread out over the year. As mentioned in previous reports, the value of immunisation against Whooping Cough, usually combined with other antigens, is making itself felt in conferring a degree of immunity against the disease.

DIPHTHERIA.

For the eleventh year in succession no case was notified.

DYSENTERY.

As in the previous few years, cases of Dysentery occurred at intervals, a total of 13 cases being notified compared with 15 in 1957 and 40, in 1956. There were seven cases in a small outbreak at the married quarters of an Air Station in the district during May, five families being involved and three contacts of the cases proving to be positive excretors. In this connection 67 visits were made. Another case occurred in an Institution for Mental Defectives, the patient being kept under surveillance until clear. Fortunately, no further case occurred. Apart from these, only 5 cases occurred in other parts of the district, three at Brunton Park and two at Hazlerigg. During the year, a total number of 92 faeces samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

FOOD POISONING.

No case of Food Poisoning was notified in 1958 as in 1957. There were 2 cases notified in 1956. There was no suspected case during the year and no *Salmonella* organisms were isolated from human faecal specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

During the year a Revised Memorandum on the Investigation of Food Poisoning was published and the Council considered it advisable to inform medical practitioners of this and remind them of the value of full and prompt notification of cases of food poisoning, actual or suspected.

At the beginning of November information was received from the Divisional Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to the effect that illness among a herd of dairy cattle in the district had been diagnosed as a *Salmonella* infection, the organism implicated being *Salmonella* Dublin.

After investigation, the householder and employees of the milk producer were advised to boil all milk before use. The bulk milk supply from the farm was subject to pasteurisation before sale.

INFLUENZAL AND VIRUS PNEUMONIA.

There was no general prevalence of Influenza in the district, though in the early weeks of the year there was some in the surrounding districts. As in previous years, at the request of the Ministry of Health, the general practitioners of the district kept a close watch on the situation in co-operation with this Department.

Five cases of primary Pneumonia were notified, compared with 8 cases in 1957 and 7, in 1956.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

No case of Poliomyelitis has been notified since 1955 when there were two cases.

There were no known contacts of any case during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia increased to a total of 24. All the cases occurred in the Mona Taylor Maternity Home and were of patients from other parts of the County.

TYPHOID FEVER CONTACTS.

During the month of September information was received from the Medical Officer of Health of a neighbouring Authority concerning a case of confirmed Typhoid Fever in that district. The patient had previously attended a barbecue party in this district at which there were 14 other people present. Of these, 4 were residents of this district and were kept under surveillance. In connection with the remaining guests, Medical Officers of Health in the districts in which they resided were informed for any action which might have been necessary.

Four faeces specimens were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination in connection with the contacts in this district ; all proved negative.

ERYSIPELAS.

Two cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year compared with 3 in 1957.

COURSE IN RADIATION HAZARDS.

I attended this course in London during April of the year under review. The course was intensive and consisted of lectures followed by discussions and practical demonstrations. These lectures gave a glimpse of a very wide and intensely interesting field.

IV.—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

Burial or Cremation of the Dead—Section 50.

One investigation took place during the year in connection with the burial of an old lady in the district, but no action was necessary under this section.

Removal to Suitable Premises of Person in need of Care and Attention—Section 47.

Several cases under this section were investigated and although no formal action proved necessary arrangements were made for Home Helps : financial assistance through the National Assistance Board and nursing aids were supplied.

The case of an elderly man living in insanitary conditions in a remote village came to the notice of the department and after many visits and help of various types was enabled to remain at home assisted by the

services of a home help. Notices were served on the owner to remedy various housing defects. These were complied with and five neighbours volunteered to clean and redecorate the house. This was satisfactorily done.

V.—HOUSING

The position of housing throughout the district as a whole, can be said to be fairly satisfactory. Action continued to be taken on houses not conforming to the standard of fitness as laid down in Section 4 Housing Act 1957, and in this respect "Official Representation" was made in connection with eleven houses. It is pleasing to record that of the 746 houses placed in categories 4 and 5 in the 1946 Rural Housing Survey all have, with the exception of a few wooden bungalows, been satisfactorily dealt with.

The Council's policy in operating the requirements of the Housing Act 1949, Housing Repairs Act 1954, Rent Act 1957, Housing (Financial Provision) Act 1958, continued to make good progress. It is satisfying to note that since the inception of the scheme, no less than 281 houses have been improved and raised to Council House standard.

The provision of suitable housing, for retired and aged people, continues to present a challenge to the majority, if not all, local authorities. In this connection a number of bungalows were built in the Village of Whalton. The provision of such accommodation is of paramount importance from both a social and environmental point of view. It is observed that at present, 11.92% of existing Council house property is composed of this type of dwelling.

Two cases of overcrowding were found during the year. Both cases were satisfactorily dealt with, one was re-housed by the Council and suitable arrangements were made in respect of the other.

VI.—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Details of inspection of food premises in the district numbering 131 are contained in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The regular inspection of all food establishments and the co-operation of the food handlers and the owners of the businesses has resulted in a steady improvement. No notified illness among residents in the district was traced to any of the food or catering premises and no formal action was necessary.

During the year 48 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and the one and only manufacturer of ice-cream in the district was visited regularly and a satisfactory standard of hygiene maintained.

VII.—WATER SUPPLY

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company is the official water undertaker to the Council. Their water mains are situated to enable any part of the 130 sq. miles which comprise the district, to be supplied with an adequate and wholesome water service.

Particulars in connection with the various water samples collected throughout the district and submitted for bacteriological examinations are set out in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

Mr. G. E. Dimmack, M.I.MUN.E. has kindly supplied the information given on page 31 in connection with the implementation of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order 1950.

VIII.—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Fundamentally, life depends on food, water and air. In the first two cases, legislation has long been in force to ensure that the commodity is pure, clean and wholesome.

In respect of air, the remaining section of the comparatively recent Clean Air Act, 1956, came into operation in June 1958, chiefly concerning industrial undertakings.

The Northumberland and Durham Local Authorities Clean Air Committee, the North Eastern Regional Advisory Committee with Sub and Technical Committees, at which Councillors and your officials attend, serve to stimulate concerted action among all the North-East Local Authorities, towards the formation of Smoke Control Areas.

The main source of atmospheric pollution in this district, is confined to the eastern industrial coal mining area. The pit spoil banks provide a possible source of pollution, which although not always visible is nevertheless present in the atmosphere.

The Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. E. W. Strachan, when staffing arrangements permit, is undertaking a survey of an Estate of some 900 houses for the purpose of recommending it as a nucleus for an ever widening smoke control area.

It is stated by those in authority that there is an adequate supply of smokeless fuel in the North East.

IX.—WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

Voluntary work in connection with the welfare of old people living in the district went on during the year. The "Over Sixty Clubs" at Hazlerigg, Dinnington, Heddon-on-the-Wall and Ponteland were very active and members of the Ponteland Women's Voluntary Services took an active part in helping with the care of the aged.

The Northumberland Rural Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committee continued with its organisation of some of the work involved in the care of the old people in the county and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

HEALTH EDUCATION

In this connection posters were displayed in prominent places and talks given to various groups of people on such subjects as food hygiene in general by members of the staff of the Department in an endeavour to educate the public in matters relating to health. The department co-operated with the County Services in holding a special campaign on the prevention of Accidents in the Home. Much publicity material was distributed throughout the rural district. The Council incorporates home safety with their Road Safety Committee.

MORTUARY SERVICE

The Mortuary at Gosforth serves the north and eastern parts of the rural district and like provision is also made at Newburn for the southern and western parts. Both Mortuaries are of up-to-date design, the Gosforth one being adapted for the purpose and the Newburn mortuary, situated at Lemington Cemetery, is a new building. Suitable financial arrangements for their use have been made with the respective Councils.

X.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE DISTRICT

The details under this section have been supplied in the report of Mr. E. W. Stachan, Chief Public Health Inspector.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

(a) HOSPITALS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

- (i) Birney Hill Neurosis Hospital.
- (ii) Ponteland Hospital.
- (iii) Stannington Children's Hospital, Stannington.
- (iv) Burnholme, Stannington, attached to the Northgate Hospital, Morpeth.

(b) LOCAL AUTHORITY HOMES.

- (i) Cottage Homes, Ponteland (Newcastle Corporation).
- (ii) Mona Taylor Maternity Home, Stannington (Northumberland County Council).
- (iii) Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington (for aged people) (Northumberland County Council).

(c) NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.

Services 3, 4, 5 and 6 and the care of the buildings under service 2 are administered by the South Area Health Sub-Committee of the Northumberland County Council.

1. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY.

There are five nurse/midwives practising in the district and two more share Stamfordham district.

- (1) Nurse Simpson, 4, Cheviot View, Brunswick Village.
 - (2) Nurse Cockburn, 49, Western Way, Darras Hall. (Dinnington Village area).
 - (3) Nurse Brown, 5, The Green, Ponteland.
 - (4) Nurse Larney, Wooler Cottage, Stannington.
 - (5) Nurse Edmundson, 33, The Fairway, Brunton Park.
- Nurse Leck, Two Trees, Scots Gap and Nurse Lackenby, The Willows, Corbridge, together with Nurse Brown, share Stamfordham district.

2. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Nine Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are situated in the district one at each of the following places :—

Dinnington Village, Brunswick Village, Brunton Park, Hazlerigg, Ponteland, Stamfordham, Stannington Settlement, Heddon-on-the Wall and Ouston.

Sessions are held for babies, children up to five years and for expectant mothers as well as immunisation sessions.

A new centre was opened at Ouston for the benefit of the mothers and children living at the Aerodrome. It is held once a month.

3. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Wideopen Depot which is situated a few hundred yards beyond the eastern boundary of the rural district is the largest depot in the County and covers the eastern part of Castle Ward, Gosforth and Longbenton Urban districts. All messages are received from the whole of the southern part of the County from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. on weekdays, from noon on Saturdays to 8 a.m. on Mondays and relayed to the respective stations.

Throckley depot covers the southern and western parts of the rural district and ambulances of the Morpeth depot the northern part.

4. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against Diphtheria continued to be carried out at the various Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the district and by the General Practitioners.

A total of 325 children received a primary course during the year and 145 received refresher injections.

At December 31st, 1958, a total of 88% (90%) of all children up to 15 years of age had been immunised at some time during their lives. This includes 78% (78%) of children 0—4 years, 98% (98%) of children 5—15 years. The figures in brackets show the percentage for the previous year.

The Immunity Index which indicates the number of children immunised during the last 5 years, showed 32% (18%) children under one year of age, 91% (95%) children 1—4 years, 79% (81%) children 5—14 years, giving a total Immunity Index of 78% (80%).

There was a very slight decrease in the total percentage figures this year, but a very welcome increase in the Immunity Index of children under one year of age.

Taking into consideration that the Poliomyelitis vaccination campaign was in full swing all the time, a greater decrease might well have been expected.

Some immunisations were done with a single antigen and others with combined antigens.

WHOOPING COUGH PROPHYLAXIS.

Altogether 318 children received protective injections against Whooping Cough, the greater proportion of these being given by the triple antigen. During the last few years an increasing number of

parents have sought this protection for their children. The figures were 299 in 1957, 244 in 1956, 140 in 1955 and 84 in 1954.

There has been no great incidence of Whooping Cough in the last few years.

The highest number of cases was 43, in 1956. The value of this protection seems to be having its result.

TETANUS.

The number of children receiving immunisation with the triple antigen increased considerably to a total of 193 from 50, in 1957 and 24, in 1956. This protection is being increasingly sought by parents.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The smaller number of primary vaccinations against Smallpox was disturbing, the total dropping to 106 from 147 the previous year, and 18 re-vaccinations as against 34 in 1958. A partial explanation of this may be the vigour of the Poliomyelitis campaign, but it is hoped that this decrease will not continue, because, as has been previously pointed out, with present rapid travel and movement, a large proportion of the population remain at risk should a case of Smallpox arise. Increased efforts are being made to bring this home to parents and to advise in the spacing of injections and vaccinations in young babies.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

It would be difficult at this stage to give figures for the rural district per se, but in the South Area the percentage of children up to 15 years of age who had received vaccination against Poliomyelitis was 75 to 80% by the end of the year.

In the summer of 1958, third injections were commenced and in the Autumn of the year the age limit was extended to include young people up to 26 years of age.

5. HOME HELP SERVICE.

During the course of the year, 106 (78) patients, residing in the rural district, received the services of a home help for varying periods. The cases included 26 (11) confinements, 17 (21) cases of acute illness, 59 (44) aged and infirm people, 3 (1) blind persons and one family involving the care of children in the absence of the mother. This year the service increased considerably in the total number of patients served, the increase being in confinements and the care of the aged and infirm.

6. CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

As in former years, meetings were held regularly every three months by the Gosforth and Castle Ward After-Care Sub-Committee and cases of tuberculosis, heart and chest diseases received help with clothing, food, travelling expenses of relatives to Hospitals etc.

Increasing attention is being given to aid with rehabilitation and help in cases of chest diseases, other than tuberculosis.

7. NURSING CARE COMMITTEES.

The three Nursing Care Committees in the district are Blagdon -Stannington, Ponteland and Stamfordham.

Voluntary Organisations whose members kindly visit sick people and supply the smaller items of nursing equipment as required, fulfil a small but important need. In this respect the Dinnington district is looked after by the Gosforth and Castle Ward Care and After-Care Sub-Committee and the South Area Health Sub-Committee supplies, when necessary, the larger and more unusual items of equipment, such as are required for paraplegic patients. The district nurses keep a supply of the smaller articles of equipment for loan to suitable cases.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT :

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	82,846
Registrar General's estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,550
Number of habitable houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,101
Sum represented by penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,052
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£286,218

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS :

	Males	Females	Total
Live births (leg.)	157	170	327
Live births (illeg.)	1	3	4
Still births	5	2	7
Deaths	195	165	360
Birth rate per 1,000 population	..	..	17.4
Still births per 1,000 live and still births	..	..	21.4
Death Rate	..	..	11.8

DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	..	—
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DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR :

All infants per 1,000 live births	21.4
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CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE CASTLE WARD AREA, 1958.

				Males	Females	Institutional	
						Total	Deaths
ALL CAUSES	..	..	..	195	165	360	(189)
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
2. Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
3. Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	1	—	1	(1)
4. Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
5. Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
6. Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
8. Measles	..	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
9. Other Infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	—	1	1	(—)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	8	1	9	(4)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	4	—	4	(2)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	2	1	3	(2)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	—	1	1	(—)
14. Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	11	4	15 (3)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
16. Diabetes	..	..	..	..	1	—	1 (—)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	51	48	99 (67)
18. Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	29	17	46 (8)
19. Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	3	3	6 (4)
20. Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	42	58	100 (79)
21. Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	6	7	13 (—)
22. Influenza	..	..	..	..	1	—	1 (1)
23. Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	10	5	15 (5)
24. Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	7	2	9 (3)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	1	—	1 (1)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	2	—	2 (—)
27. Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	—	—	— (—)
28. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	—	1	1 (1)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	3	—	3 (—)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	—	—	— (—)
31. Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	1	—	1 (—)
32. Other defined and ill-defined disease	..	..	..	..	8	12	20 (5)
33. Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	1	1	2 (—)
34. All other accidents	..	..	..	..	3	3	6 (3)
35. Suicide	..	..	..	..	—	—	— (—)
36. Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	—	—	— (—)

(Figures in brackets indicate Hospital deaths)

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES (per 1,000 Population).

				Births		Deaths	
				Castle Ward	England & Wales	Castle Ward	England & Wales
1939	..	..		14.2	15.5	8.8	12.1
1940	..	..		13.1	15.1	8.3	14.3
1941	..	..		13.0	15.7	19.0	11.6
1942	..	..		15.9	16.3	10.1	11.6
1943	..	..		15.7	17.0	9.3	12.1
1944	..	..		17.5	18.1	12.6	11.6
1945	..	..		14.9	16.5	11.6	11.4
1946	..	..		17.2	19.6	10.7	11.5
1947	..	..		14.9	21.0	11.5	12.0
1948	..	..		15.4	18.3	10.0	10.8
1949	..	..		15.8	16.7	10.0	11.7
1950	..	..		15.6	15.8	10.47	11.6
1951	..	..		14.2	15.5	10.43	12.5
1952	..	..		13.8	15.3	17.05	11.3
1953	..	..		13.7	15.5	19.9	11.4
1954	..	..		15.5 ⁸	15.2	20.02	11.3
1955	..	..		16.4	15.0	17.89	11.7
1956	..	..		15.2	15.7	12.0	11.7
1957	..	..		16.3	16.1	10.1	11.5
1958	..	..		17.4	16.4	11.8	11.7

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

					Castle Ward	England & Wales
1944	..	..	..	..	41.8	46
1945	..	..	..	..	50.9	46
1946	..	..	..	..	43.0	43
1947	..	..	..	..	41.0	41
1948	..	..	..	..	26.3	34
1949	..	..	..	..	13.4	32
1950	..	..	..	..	13.4	29.8
1951	..	..	..	..	19.2	29.6
1952	..	..	..	..	55.0	27.6
1953	..	..	..	..	51.3	25.5
1954	..	..	..	..	27.1	25.5.
1955	..	..	..	..	28.6	24.9
1956	..	..	..	..	15.0	23.8
1957	..	..	..	..	20.4	23.0
1958	..	..	..	..	21.4	22.5

INFANT MORTALITY, 1958.

Prematurity	..	..	20 minutes, 16 hours, 2 days.
Cerebral Haemorrhage	..		1 day
Hydrops foetalis	..	..	5 minutes
Haemorrhagic Pneumonia			2 weeks, 6 days.
Congenital Malformations			11 months.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

The table on page 19 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICES

	Positive	Negative
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria	—	1
Throat Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci ..	6	4
Specimens of Sputum for Tuberculosis	2	—
Gastric aspiration for Inoculation (Tuberculosis)	—	—
Urine for Pus Cells and Culture	—	—
Stool specimens for Dysentery	24	59
Stool specimens for other purposes	—	—
Nasal swabs for Pertussis	—	—
	32	64
TOTAL ..	96	

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1958.

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS :

Total Outbreaks ..	Nil	Total Cases	Nil
--------------------	-----	----------------	----	-----

OUTBREAKS DUE TO :

(a) Chemical Poisons .. ..	..	..	..	Nil
(b) Salmonella Organisms .. ..	..	..	..	Nil
(c) Staphylococci (Including Toxin) .. ..	..	..	..	Nil
(d) Cl. botulinum .. ..	..	..	..	Nil
(e) Other bacteria .. ..	..	..	..	Nil

OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :

Total Outbreaks ..	Nil	Total Cases	Nil
--------------------	-----	----------------	----	-----

SINGLE CASES	Nil
--------------------	----	----	----	-----

Agent Identified	Nil
------------------------	----	----	----	-----

NUMBER OF DEATHS ..	Nil
---------------------	-----

FOOD INVOLVED	Nil
---------------------	-----

SALMONELLOSIS

Total Outbreaks ..	Nil
--------------------	-----

Single Cases	Nil
--------------------	-----

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE YEARLY RETURN, 1958

DISEASE	0—1		1—		3—		5—		10—		15—		25 and Over		Total		Hos- pital		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	1	2	2	1	7	2	12	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	23	9	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	1	—	..1	—	2	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	7	2	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

DISEASE	0—		5—		15—		45—		65 and Over		Total		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Acute Pneumonia ..	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	4	1	—	—
Dysentery ..	1	—	6	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	9	4	—	—
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Enc. Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric & Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS—AGE GROUPS

AGE PERIODS	New cases notified as occurring in the Rural District during 1958			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	1	—	1
15—25	—	1	—	—
25—35	—	2	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—
45—55	1	1	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—
	2	6	—	1
	8		1	
	9			

STATEMENT OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS 1958

	No. of cases on Register at commencement of Quarter.		New Notifications		Inward Transfers		Number of cases removed from Register		Number of cases remaining	
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.
March 31st, 1958—										
Males	63	9	1	—	1	—	—	1	65	8
Females	67	16	2	—	—	2	2	1	67	17
June 30th, 1958—										
Males	65	8	2	—	—	—	1	—	66	8
Females	67	17	4	1	—	—	1	1	70	17
September 30th, 1958—										
Males	66	8	—	—	—	—	2	—	64	8
Females	70	17	—	—	—	2	2	1	68	18
December 31st, 1958—										
Males	64	8	—	—	—	—	1	—	63	8
Females	68	18	—	—	1	1	—	1	69	18

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent 1958

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

The end of 1958 brought to a conclusion another twelve months of progress in every field of environmental hygiene, due, not only to additional legislation, but also the rapid development of the district.

The following headings give an indication of the work in general.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Local Authority is responsible for the hygienic handling of milk by retailers of whom there are twelve operating in the district :

REGISTERED DAIRYMEN :

Mr. J. H. Brown, Ivy House, Kenton Bank Foot.
Mr. J. Hudspeth, North Brunton Dairy Farm, Gosforth.
Cramlington and District Co-operative Society Ltd.
Mr. H. Thompson, " Kenmore ", Dinnington Village.
Mr. J. A. Herron, Woodside, Darras Hall.
Newcastle upon Tyne Co-operative Society Ltd.
Throckley and District Co-operative Society Ltd.
Messrs. J. T. and R. Graham, Wylam Hills Farm, Wylam.
Mr. H. J. Farquhar, 10, Queens Way, Brunton Park, Gosforth.
Mrs. M. U. White, North Mason Farm, Dinnington Village.
Mr. W. Sloan, per Charltons Cafe, 11, Market Street, Hexham.
Mr. D. Eblett, 8A Newlands Avenue, Melton Park, Gosforth.

During the year 3 new applications for registration were approved and 7 were removed from the register at the request of the dairymen concerned.

Co-operation is maintained with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Milk Production Officer to whom methylene blue results of milk samples from Producers and Produce-Retailers are forwarded.

Forty-eight samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the year for the methylene blue test. Forty of these being ungraded milk samples, were also subjected to biological examination of which none proved positive to tubercle bacilli.

During the year 15 dairy farms changed over from the production of Undesignated milk and were licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk. This brings the total number of designated producers of milk in the district to 73 leaving a total of 22 dairy farms producing undesignated milk. During the year 5 dairy farms producing undesignated milk ceased production and terminated registration.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order 1958 referred to in the 1957 Annual Report was made this year and came into operation on the 14th April, 1958. This order contains ten additional specified areas in England and Wales. Area 1 is comprised of the following districts, namely :—

The Borough of Morpeth

The Urban Districts of Alnwick, Amble, Ashington, Bedlingtonshire and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

The Rural Districts of Alnwick, Castle Ward, Morpeth and Rothbury.

In these areas specified, all milk sold by retail must be " specially designated ", that is, Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested Milk.

During the year two complaints in connection with the retailing of milk were received, these involved dirty milk bottles. During the negotiations which took place with the representatives of the milk bottling plants, evidence was produced of many returned bottles which had been used for all sorts of purposes, i.e., paraffin, paint, cement, hair bleaches, dyes, etc.

Never has such emphasis been placed on hygiene as at the present time and it is deplorable to find that such conditions prevail. In connection with the two complaints, extra precautions were taken by the firm for the detection of dirty bottles.

(b) FOOD PREMISES.

The following are the types of food premises in the district :—

Butchers	.. .. .	11
Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars	.. ..	9
Canteens (Industrial)	.. ..	7
Hospital and Institution Kitchens	..	12
School Kitchens	.. .. .	13
Clubs	.. .. .	6
Fried Fish Shops (including one mobile)	..	2
Public Houses and Off-Licences	.. ..	25
General Dealers (including Grocers and Greengrocers)	.. .. .	46
		<hr/>
		131
		<hr/>

Of the above premises, 43 are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as follows :—

Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream	..	1
Sale of Ice Cream	.. .. .	30
Manufacture of sausage and preserved meats		12

In 30 instances the commodity is of the prepacked variety stored in modern refrigerators.

There are also a number of mobile ice cream units operating in the district which are all subject to regular inspection regarding the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(c) **ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947.**

29 samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory. Of these, 11 were from the only manufacturer in the district, the remainder being samples from retailers. Results were as follows :—

Grade I	19
Grade II	6
Grade III	Nil
Grade IV	4

In the case of Grade IV samples, representation was made to the manufacturer concerned, and subsequent samples showed an improvement.

(d) **FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955. (SAMPLING OF FOOD).**

This work is undertaken by the County Council under the direction of Mr. Arlidge, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department to whom I am obliged for the following Report :—

“ During the year ended 31st December, 1958, the County Sampling Officers procured a total of 73 samples in the Castle Ward Rural District.

The articles sampled were as follows :—

Almond Flavouring	Beef Sausages
Cheshire Cheese	Chicken Noodle Soup
Cooking Fat	Custard Powder
Dessicated Coconut	Egg and Milk Toffee
Extra Cream Caramels	Fish Cakes
Glycerine Lemon and Ipec. Mixture	Gravy Browning
Hamburgers	Ham and Beef Paste
Hazlenut Milk Chocolate	Ice Cream
Indian Tonic Water	Lemon Squash
Malt Vinegar	Milk
Milk Chocolate Drops	Mixed Spice
Oat Krunchies	Orange Milk Chocolate Biscuits
Peppermint Cordial	Pork Pie
Pork Sausages	Quick Frozen Kipper Fillets
Quick Frozen Steak and Kidney Pie	Quick Frozen Dairy Cream Sponge
Raspberry Vinegar	Ready Mix Ice Cream
Sauce	Somerset Cream
Sterilized Cream	Sun Sip Orange Drink
Table Jelly	Tea

With the exception of a sample of Beef Sausages found to contain preservative, the presence of which was not declared to the purchaser, all samples were found to be satisfactory.”

(e) **UN SOUND FOOD.**

During the year a complaint was received involving a loaf of bread containing foreign matter, it being discovered upon investigation, with the complete co-operation of the manager of the bakery concerned, to be a piece of canvas material torn from a sheet that covers the dough during its processing. Regret was expressed by those responsible, who immediately ordered the replacement of the canvas cover. Assurance was given that their increased vigilance would prevent a recurrence in the future.

As the result of a fire which occurred in a General Dealer's shop, a request was made by the owner for the examination of the food stock in order to determine it's fitness for sale for human consumption. This was undertaken, with the consequent condemnation of a large proportion of food found to have been affected by both heat and water.

The food condemned and disposed of included the following :—

103 lbs. Jam	128 lbs. Tinned Fruit
20 lbs. Tinned Butter Beans	27 lbs. Tinned Soup
5½ lbs. Tinned Tuna Fish	20 lbs. Tinned Syrup
14 lbs. Sugar	44 Pint tins Condensed Milk
44 lbs. Evaporated Milk	52 lbs. Butter
14 lbs. Margarine	21 lbs. Lard

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

All meat and offal condemned as being unfit for human consumption is stained, after which it is collected at the Slaughterhouses by a firm of Glue and Chemical manufacturers. The regularity of collection is weekly or bi-weekly depending upon the total condemnations. During the year the amount received for the sale of this material amounts to £102 11s. 3d.

Other Foods—Incineration at the Council's refuse disposal points.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughter Houses.

There are six licensed Slaughterhouses within the district :—

1. Mr. J. Anderson, North Grange Farm, Ponteland.
2. Mr. T. Bewick, Diamond Inn, Ponetland.
3. Messrs. N. Wilson & Sons, West View, Stamfordham.
4. Mr. E. Lunley, Bridge End, Stamfordham.
5. Cramlington Co-operative Society Ltd., Brunswick Village Branch.
6. Mr. J. Ball, 4, Darrell Street, Brunswick Village.

A regular inspection of both carcasses and offal of all animals slaughtered within the district is made. This necessitates daily inspection of all carcasses of food animals. Where possible ante-mortem inspection of animals is made and in particular those animals which are sent into the slaughterhouse as casualties.

The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, are to come into operation on the 1st January, 1959. Notice however was received some time ago that these regulations were in the course of preparation, the requirements being set out in a recommendation presented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in August last year. These requirements deal with the construction, layout and Slaughterhouse equipment.

A meeting was held in Newcastle of representatives of all neighbouring authorities in the Tyneside area to ascertain their interest in a proposed public abattoir to be built at Scotswood. Following this, a Sub-Committee, under the Chairmanship of Councillor J. Wilson, held a meeting in the Council Chamber, Ponteland, of Butchers and representatives of the trade to consider the Newcastle proposal. At this meeting it was generally felt that the use of an abattoir in Newcastle, considering the distance involved, would be inconvenient to those wishing to do their own

slaughtering. As a result, four of the existing slaughthouses in Castle Ward were surveyed by the Engineers & Surveyor's Department and the Public Health Department combined, and estimates of the cost of the works necessary to bring the Slaughterhouses up to the standard under the above regulations were presented for the consideration of the owners concerned.

At a further meeting two of the owners of Slaughterhouses intimated that they were giving serious consideration towards carrying out the works necessary under the proposed new Reulations. The remaining owners, who possibly deal with 75% of the meat slaughtering trade, supported the suggestion of a council owned and controlled abattoir, to be sited near the Ponteland Mart. The Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. G. Edgar-Dimmack, M.I.MUN.,E., is undertaking the preparation of plans etc., of an abattoir of such size as to deal with existing requirements, and future developments.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Normal Kill	1,413	320	302	4,514	1,822	8,371
Casualties	25	28	9	223	37	322
Number examined	1,438	348	311	4,737	1,859	8,693
CARCASES CONDEMNED WHOLLY OR IN PART						
A. All Diseases except Tubercuolsis & Cysticeri						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	10(4)	32(11)	10(7)	103 (71)	19(16)	174(100)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	403	122	4	95	436	1,060
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticeri ..	28.1%	44.2%	4%	4.1%	24.4%	14.2%
B. Tuberculosis Only.						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	9(6)	13(9)	—	—	—	22(15)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	36	74	—	—	41	151
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	3.1%	25%	—	—	2.2%	1.9%
C. Cysticercosis.						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Cysticeri.	12%	—	—	—	—	—

The number of casualties are shown in brackets and are included in the totals

One cannot over emphasise the importance of the inspection of all carcasses intended for human consumption, as a precautionary measure towards safeguarding the health of the general public. A perusal of the following table illustrates this maxim :—

DETAILS OF MEAT AND OTHER ORGANS CONDEMNED, SURRENDERED, AND DISPOSED OF

FOR TUBERCULOSIS

Bovine				Pigs			
Head and Tongues	..	44		Head and Tongue	..	33	
Lungs	.. ..	55		Lungs	.. ..	5	
Livers	.. ..	10		Livers	.. ..	1	
Beef	.. ..	2 stone		Kidney	.. ..	2	
Carcases (22 including casualties)	15	629 stone					

FOR OTHER DEFINED DISEASES

Bovine.

Head and Tongues	..	15	—Actinomycosis 9, Abscesses 4, Traumatism 2.
Lungs	.. ..	108	—Abscesses 9, Emphysema 31, Pleurisy 12, Pneumonia 37, Ill-bled 17, Septic Pneumonia 1, Melanosis 1.
Livers	Whole	218)	445—Cirrhosis 169, Abscesses 33, Telangiectasis 6, Fatty degeneration 3, Hernia 1, Peritonitis 1, Fatty infiltration 4, Bacterial Necrosis 1,
	Part	227)	Cirrhosis 210, Abscesses 17.
Hearts	.. ..	3	—Cysticercus Bovis 3.
Skirts	.. ..	10	—Abscesses 8, Pleurisy 2.
Kidneys	.. ..	27	—Nephritis 14, Retention cysts 10, Pyelonephritis 2, Hydronephrosis 1.
Fat (lbs.)	.. ..	21	—Fat necrosis 12, Abscesses 9.
Beef (stones)	.. ..	137	—Oedema 4, Bruising & Oedema 108, Traumatism 17, Abscesses 2, Septic Pleurisy 6.
Carcases (including casualties)	23	42	—Oedema and Emaciation 21, Gangrene 2, Septic Pleurisy 1, Johnes disease 1, Severe Bruising 1, Pyrexia 5, Septicaemia 3, Pathological Emaciation 7, Arthritis 1.
(Total Weight	845 stones)		

Sheep.

Plucks	.. ..	15	—Ill-bled 9, Pneumonia 6.
Livers	.. ..	80	—Cirrhosis 27, Parasities 53.
Mutton (lbs.)	.. ..	230	—Bruising, 103, Arthritis 46, Traumatism 42, Pleurisy 30, Oedema 18.

Carcases (including 71 casualties)	103—	Oedema & Emaciation 47, Oedema 14, Septic Pneumonia 6, Pneumonia 1, Septic Pleurisy 3, Septic Peritonitis 2, Peritonitis 2, Gangrene 1, Acute Arthritis 1, Ill-bled 6, Acute Mastitis 1, Pyaemia 3, Pathological Emaciation 2, Jaundice 1, Pyrexia 2, Carcinoma 2, Decomposition 2, Moribund 7.
Total Weight—306 stones		
Pigs.		
Heads	8—	Abscesses 8.
Plucks	21—	Pericarditis 18, Pneumonia 1, Pleurisy 2.
Lungs	368—	Pneumonia 331, Ill-bled 31, Parasites 4, Pleurisy 2.
Livers	39—	Ascaris Lumbricoides 35, Peritonitis 1, Cirrhosis 2, Cysts 1.
Kidneys	9—	Retention cysts 5, Hydronephrosis 4.
Pork (lbs.)	180—	Traumatism 75, Arthritis 105.
Carcases (including 16 casualties)	19—	Septic Pneumonia 3, Septic Peritonitis 1, Pyrexia 3, Pyaemia 2, Septicaemia 2, Leukaemia 1, Pyelonephritis 1, Bruising and Oedema 1, Oedema & Emaciation 2, Immaturity 2, Malformation 1.
(Total weight—76 stones)		
Calves.		
Carcases (including 6 casualties)	10—	Acute Arthritis 1, Septic Pneumonia 2, Jaundice 1, Generalised Oedema 1, Oedema & Emaciation 1, Immaturity 3, Stillborn 1.
(Total weight—43 stones)		
Poultry.		
Carcases	22—	Severe bruising
	9—	Decomposition.

NUMBER OF FOOD ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED IN PAST 5 YEARS.

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Cattle (Excluding Cows)	663	857	1,266	1,463	1,438
Cows	145	141	200	315	348
Calves	108	33	278	384	311
Sheep and Lambs ..	2,239	2,517	3,630	4,522	4,737
Pigs	470	886	1,235	2,815	1,859
Total	3,625	4,434	6,609	9,499	8,693

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938

This order is operated by the County Constabulary and during the year no notification was received by them under the above-mentioned Order.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

No case of foot and mouth disease was reported during the year within the district nor did any part of the district come within the fifteen mile radius of any other reported outbreak.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

One application was received for a Licence for the sale of pet animals which was granted.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The cleansing service consists of the removal and disposal of household and trade refuse and the periodical de-sludging of domestic septic tanks. The service operates throughout the 130 square miles of the rural district. The district is at present divided into 5 sectors, each of which is served by a refuse collecting vehicle with Chargeman, Driver and Loader(s). The chargeman is responsible for his sector and is supervised from the office. There is no general foreman.

A weekly collection is made from the built-up areas of the district, including hospitals and institutions, the remainder being serviced fortnightly. Building development continued during the year at Darras Hall and Melton Park and work commenced on the Newcastle Corporation housing estate at Newbiggin Hall. This estate will eventually comprise some 3,000 houses, the first 200 of which will be ready for occupation about the autumn of 1959. To meet these increased demands, it will be necessary to increase the size of the Cleansing Service to the extent of one additional refuse vehicle and crew. Provision should also be made for the replacement of one at least of the existing vehicles, some of which are now more than 10 years old.

Refuse vehicles, by the nature of the commodity carried, and their very arduous running conditions, are subjected to much greater wear and tear than normal transport vehicles, and at 10 years old may fairly be considered to have passed their useful economic life.

The emptying of septic tanks, which is a free service, is carried out by two men on a part-time basis, using a portable pump and 250 gallon sludge trailer towed by an adapted refuse vehicle. Experience over the last few years has shown that the present system is insufficient. There are now more than 500 septic tanks throughout the district and this number is growing. Current Ministry recommendations are that septic tanks should be de-sludged every 6 months, which is impossible with the present equipment, and it is felt that the question of providing a proper tanker vehicle and crew should be given further consideration.

VEHICLES.

The following vehicles are employed on the service :—

Thornycroft	1943	Adapted for septic tank service				
Thornycroft	1948	12 cu. yd.	Side loader.	Petrol Engine.		
Karrier Bantam	1949	7	" "	" "	" "	" "
Karrier Bantam	1949	7	" "	" "	" "	" "
Karrier Bantam	1950	7	" "	" "	" "	" "
Karrier Bantam	1953	7	" "	" "	" "	" "
Shelvoke & Drewry	1955	18 cu. yd.	Rear Loader (Fore & Aft Tipper)	Diesel engine.		

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Disposal points in the district are as follows :—

1. Brickyard Quarry, Ponteland.
2. Shotton Edge Quarry, Stannington.
3. Belsay (Two quarries).
4. Stobhill, Cheeseburn Grange.
5. Heddon-on-the-Wall.
6. Mill Hill, Dinnington.
7. Disused Sewage Works, Woolsington.

During the year, tipping space was exhausted at tips at Stannington and Whalton and these have been restored.

The disposal continues to be by uncontrolled tipping. As recommended in previous years, the purchase of some form of mechanical earth moving equipment is essential, particularly at the Ponteland tipping site which is rapidly approaching the Collingwood Cottages.

In connection with the Ponteland tipping site, an area of approximately four acres was levelled by a bulldozer and other earth moving machinery. The area reclaimed was properly fenced and handed back to the owners.

CLEANSING COSTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1959

Estimated weight of refuse removed	10,619 Tons
Approximate average weight per house per annum ..	34.8 Cwts.
Average quantity per house per annum	5.6 cu. yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days) ..	29.8 cwts.
Total cost of collection & disposal (Refuse & Salvage) ..	£16,311 3 4
Less Income from Salvage & Trade Refuse etc. ..	911 1 7

Nett Cleansing Cost	£15,400 1 9
-----------------------------	-------------

Cost per house	£2 10 6
Cost per head of population	15 9
Cost on rates in the £	1 2.64d.

SALVAGE :

The collection and sale of salvage continued during the year. National conditions, however, caused some falling off in demand for salvage and this was reflected in lower prices. The result has been a slight decrease in the total income from this source.

DETAILS OF SALVAGE DISPOSED OF :—

			Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste-paper .. .. .	..	..	80	16	0	689	18	7
Rags .. .. .	..	..	1	16	1	32	8	0
Scrap Metal .. .. .	..	..	4	4	1	29	9	9
			86	16	2	£751	16	4

WATER

The scheme for the supply of water throughout the Rural District prepared by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company, following the approval by the Minister of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order 1950, was completed during the first months of 1957.

Apart from 4 privately owned water supplies the District is now served throughout by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

PRIVATELY OWNED WATER SUPPLIES.

There are four such water supplies still functioning and serve part of the Parishes of Belsay Ward 2, Capheaton Ward 2, Matfen Ward 1 and Stannington Ward 2. The source of supply in three instances is from springs, the fourth being a borehole.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Date and Premises	Type of Supply	Sample Taken from	Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli per 100 ml.
31/3/58 Old Hall Farm, Dissington	Stream	Hydraulic Ram	180+
31/3/58 Old Hall Farm, Dissington.	Shallow Well	Well	3
9/4/58 Old Hall Farm, Dissington.	do.	do.	180+
4/4/58 Old Hall Farm, Dissing'n	do.	do.	11
1/5/58 Ebor House, Smallburn	Shallow Well	Well	Nil
1/5/58 East Shafto Farm	Shallow Well	Tap in Scullery	Nil
1/5/58 East Shafto Farm	Spring	Collecting Chamber	20
7/5/58 Old Hall Farm, Dissington	Shallow Well	Well	5
15/5/58 Old Hall Farm, Dissing'n	do.	do.	Nil
22/5/58 Old Hall Farm, Dissing'n	do.	do.	Nil
29/5/58 Old Hall Farm, Dissing'n	do.	do.	2
31/7/58 Old Hall Farm, Dissing'n	do.	do.	Nil
8/9/58 Houghton Moor	Spring	Collecting Chamber	180+
do.	do.	Tap in dairy	25
24/10/58			

Date and Premises	Type of Supply	Sample Taken from	Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli per 100 ml.
Dissington Red House, Dalton	Newcastle & Gateshead main	Tap in Scullery	Nil
24/10/58 West House, Milbourne	do.	do.	Nil
24/10/58 Black Heddon Farm	do.	do.	Nil
24/10/58 East Farm, Ryal	do.	do.	Nil
24/10/58 Temperance Hotel, Matfen	do.	do.	Nil
24/10/58 Sidney Terrace, Stamfordham	do.	do.	Nil
27/10/58 West Newham, Belsay	Spring	Collecting Chamber	Nil
do.	do.	Tap in pump house	Nil
do.	do.	Tap in dairy	Nil
do.	do.	Tap in cottage	Nil

I am indebted to Mr. S. G. Barrett, M.I.C.E., Engineer to the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, for the following information.

"A total number of 1,175 samples of filtered water were examined bacteriologically at the Company's Throckley laboratories out of which 1,161 were classified "excellent", 6 "satisfactory" and 8 "unsatisfactory".

Throughout the year samples taken in the Castle Ward area were analysed as follows :—

<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Classification</i>
Harlow Hill Reservoir	10	All "excellent"
Moot Law Reservoir	6	All "excellent"
Whalton Reservoir	6	(5—"excellent" (1—"unsatisfactory"
Fenham Reservoir	8	(7—"excellent" (1—"suspicious"

The "unsatisfactory" sample was taken at Ogle and the "suspicious" sample at Clifton. In both cases check samples proved "excellent."

Bacteriological analyses were also carried out by various authorities within the Company's area of supply and, out of a total number of 369 samples examined, 359 were classified "excellent" and 4 "satisfactory."

Of the remaining 6 samples, which concerned four different points in Newcastle, follow-up samples and others taken in the vicinity proved "excellent." At one of the points, from which two samples had produced an "unsatisfactory" and a "suspicious" classification, the cause was eventually traced to a contaminated tap washer.

The customary bi-monthly chemical analyses carried out by Messrs. J. & H. S. Pattinson, the consulting analysts, proved very satisfactory throughout the year.

The final phase of the Castle Ward Regional Water Supply Scheme was completed in 1957 and the following mains were laid as normal extensions during the year 1958 :—

Hazlerigg Parish	—(11 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes (126 ,, ,, ,, 4" ,, ,,
Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish	(3 lin. yards of 2" dia. pipes. (22 ,, ,, ,, 3" ,, ,, (799 ,, ,, ,, 4" ,, ,,
North Gosforth Parish	—(355 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes. —(719 ,, ,, ,, 4" ,, ,,
Ponteland Parish	—(671 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes. (198 ,, ,, ,, 4" ,, ,,
Whalton Parish	—(260 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes.
Woolsington Parish	—(35 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes. (104 ,, ,, ,, 4" ,, ,,

Premises newly connected during the year 1958 are shown as follows :—

Harnham, Belsay.
 No. 1 Town Farm Cottage, Milbourne.
 Nos. 2 and 3 Town Farm Cottage, Milbourne.
 Bolam Vicarage, Whalton.
 9/16 Whalton Est., Whalton.
 32 and 32a Tongues Farm, Capheaton.
 1/2 The Cottages, Ingoe, Matfen.
 3 " " " " "
 West End, Ingoe, Matfen.
 1/2 North Hall, Ingoe, Matfen.
 Ivy House and South View, Ingoe, Matfen.
 1/2 Mill Cottages, Ingoe, Matfen.
 O.S. 165 Matfen.
 1/8 Whalton Village Est., Whalton.
 2 Cottages East Town Farm, Milbourne.
 Clifton Village, Morpeth.
 Main Road, Fenwick.
 End on Cottage, Stamfordham.
 Belsay Barnes Farm, Capheaton.
 Broomhill Farm, Whalton.
 West Belsay Farm, Belsay.
 Bog House Farm, Matfen.
 Tongues Farm, Capheaton.
 Bellasis Farm, Stannington.
 High House Farm, Milbourne.
 Broomhill Farm, Whalton.
 East Town Farm, Milbourne.
 Howard Arms, Stannington.
 Belsay Dene House, Belsay.
 Middlepart Farm, Belsay.
 The Folly, Belsay.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

This Act imposes on a Local Authority the duty of keeping its district free from rats and mice, and for this purpose a full time rodent operator is employed. Dwelling houses are served free of charge. In other cases, i.e., business premises, farms, etc., a charge is made for the work done and under this heading the sum of £55 6s. 4d., was recovered. Methods employed in rodent destruction are those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and close co-operation is maintained with both the Divisional Rodent Officer of the Ministry and the Rodent Officer of the County Agricultural Committee.

	Type of Property				Total
	Non-Agricultural			Agricultural	
	Refuse Tips & Sewage Works	Dwell- ing houses	All others (incl. business prem- ises)		
No. of Properties in District	28	6,101	243	484	6,856
No. of Properties inspected ..	28	208	97	218	551
Total Inspections including Re-Inspections	142	272	154	269	837
No. of Properties found to be Infested and Treated by Local Authority :					
(a) Rats	15	57	9	13	94
(b) Mice	—	30	5	1	36
Total Treatments carried out including Re-treatments	21	103	18	15	157
No. of Block Control Schemes carried out	—	5	—	—	5

HOUSING

New Houses Completed during the year.	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	16	Nil	16
(b) By any other Housing Auth- ority	1	Nil	1
(c) By private persons	1	228	229

Total number of inhabited houses in the district .. 6,101.

UNFIT HOUSES.

During the year formal action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, was taken in respect of 11 under this heading ; 10 undertakings were accepted and 1 Demolition Order made.

Action on a further 2 properties has been deferred.

Of the 322 houses placed in category 4 and 424 houses in category 5 as a result of a 1946 Housing Survey all, with the exception of 6 (wooden erections) have now been dealt with by both formal and informal action. These were either brought up to present day housing standards, or demolished or used for purposes other than human habitation.

HOUSING ACT 1949-52 IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The number of property owners who have taken advantage of the financial assistance offered under the above Act for the improvement of their properties during the year was 20, compared with 37 in the previous year.

The average cost per house of carrying out improvement works as distinct from repairs amounted to £1,198 3s. 4d., this year.

	No. of Separate Houses
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	20
(b) Applications rejected	—
(c) Applications approved	20
(In addition no further action on 1)	
(d) Total number of applications approved in the area since inception of scheme	281

HOUSING CONSOLIDATION REGULATIONS 1925/32 REGULATION 31.

1.	No. of houses unfit for human habitation	6
2.	No. of houses where defects were remedied by informal action..	99
3.	No. of representations made to the Council with a view to :—	
	(a) serving notices requiring the execution of work ..	4
	(b) making demolition or closing orders	13
4.	No. of notices served requiring the execution of works..	4
5.	No. of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices ..	4
6.	No. of demolition or closing orders made	1
7.	No. of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section 3 of Sec. 11 of Housing Act, 1936 ..	10
8.	No. of houses demolished	2

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The pollution of the atmosphere by the emission of smoke from domestic chimneys and industrial plant does not, fortunately, affect this authority to the same extent as districts adjoining the rural district boundaries. However, it is pleasing to report that the Council are to consider the formation of a Smoke Control Area, consisting of 1,000 houses. The survey of this property will commence when staffing permits.

Pollution from industry is confined to the eastern part of the district where coal mines and subsequent spoil banks are situated. Since 1955 a deposit gauge has been sited at Brunswick Village and the information from the analysis of the water collected by the gauge continues to provide a yardstick for comparison.

During the year a petition was received from a number of occupants of council houses of a smoke nuisance from the chimney of a colliery's pithead baths. The boiler employed for the raising of steam was of vertical design and some twenty-five years of age. The matter was taken up with the National Coal Board and the nuisance was abated by the installation of an automatic stoker coupled with a change of fuel.

Advantage was taken of an offer by the Solid Smokeless Fuel Federation's Clean Air Council for the loan of a Display Cabinet which was exhibited in the Post Office by kind permission of the Ponteland Postmaster. The exhibition described and illustrated the many types of approved appliances which are on the market for the burning of smokeless fuel and it is recorded that the public collected a considerable number of pamphlets. As a matter of interest, a local coal merchant reported that there had been an increase in the sale of smokeless fuel in the area immediately following this Exhibition.

The Council have appointed representatives to the Northumberland and Durham Local Authorities Clean Air Committee, the North Eastern Regional Advisory Committee and the Sub and Technical Committees which provide useful machinery for the discussion and formation of policy towards the general improvement of atmospheric pollution.

BUILDING BYELAWS—PART IVa—SMOKE PREVENTION.

The above byelaw adopted by this Council in 1957 makes it obligatory to instal in a new building heating and cooking appliances which are suitably designed for burning any of the following fuels :—

- (a) Gas
- (b) Electricity.
- (c) Coke or Anthracite.

Exception is made in the case of furnaces to which Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, applies.

The Coal Utilisation Council, Regional Office, at 18, Saville Row, Newcastle upon Tyne, where all modern approved solid fuel burning appliances are exhibited for inspection by the public, continues to provide an excellent opportunity for free advice on the selection, installation and operation of such appliances.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, SECTION 269.

There are five caravan sites in the district accommodating 36 Caravans, and various separately sited vehicles. All have Town and Country Planning approval and in addition each caravan is individually licensed under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936. During the year 38 caravans were licensed. All are modern proprietary vehicles with adequate facilities.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

There have been five disinfections of dwelling houses after infectious disease.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Infestation of Moths	..	..	1
Insects	..	..	6
Beetles	..	..	5
Wasps Nests	..	..	2

FACTORIES ACT.

There are 68 factories in the district. The following tables show the number of inspections and defects found during the period under review:—

Inspections

PREMISES	Number on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	15	54	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	53	62	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	68	116	—	—

Defects Found.

	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases Prosecutions instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness ..	6	6	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	10	10	—	—	—

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The report under this heading has been provided by the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. G. Edgar-Dimmack, M.I.MUN.,E.

(a) Ponteland, Darras Hall, Woolsington Main Drainage Scheme.

The final phase of Contract No. 1 of this main drainage scheme was completed by the end of 1958.

The new Eland Lane Pumping Station, which is the focal point of this scheme, commenced pumping in September, 1958, and since that date the disposal of sewage from Ponteland, Darras Hall, Woolsington and Kenton Bank Foot, is via the Ouseburn Sewer of the Newcastle Corporation to the River Tyne.

The final account in respect of this contract is in the course of preparation and the amount that has been expended on this scheme up to 31st December, 1958, is approximately £618,000.

The maintenance period on the final phase of the contract expires on the 15th April, 1959.

As a result of the implementation of this main drainage scheme the old sewage treatment works at Kenton Bank Foot, Woolsington, Darras Hall Estate, and the high and low level works at Ponteland were abandoned during the year.

The site of the works at Kenton Bank Foot was handed back to the original owner in June, 1958.

Those at Woolsington and Ponteland are being temporarily used for the disposal of dry refuse to adjust land levels for future restoration to agriculture.

The disposal of the Darras Hall Works is the subject of current negotiations with the Darras Hall Estate Committee from whom the land was originally conveyed free of charge to the Rural District Council.

(b) At the 31st December, 1958, the Council controlled 13 sewage disposal works as follows :—

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| (1) Belsay | (7) Ogle |
| (2) Berwick Hill | (8) Ridge Estate, Ponteland |
| (3) Capheaton | (9) Stamfordham |
| (4) Dalton (Previously privately maintained, and taken over by the Council during the year) | (10) Stannington (No. 1 Works) |
| | (11) Stannington (No. 2 Works) |
| | (12) Wallridge |
| | (13) Whalton |
| (5) Heddon-on-the-Wall | |
| (6) Kirkheaton | |

The following table gives some indication of the mileage of various sized foul, surface water and pumping mains that are maintained by the District Council :—

Location	Separate Systems		Combined	Pumping Mains	No. of Manholes
	Foul	Surface Water	Lin. Yd.	Lin. Yd.	
	Length of	Sewers in			
BELSAY			733		11
BERWICK HILL			467		7
BRUNTON PARK	6661	6921			232
BURN CLOSE			3220		39
CAPHEATON			392		6
DALTON			157		1
DARRAS HALL	20216	18918			355
DINNINGTON	9085	4936		3387	67
FRENCHMAN'S ROW			600		5
HAZLERIGG	279	500	3015		55
HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL		677	5415	150	91
KENTON BANK FOOT			2432		30
KIRKHEATON			400		16
OGLE			953		11
PONTELAND	6788	4341	4859	2863	257
STAMFORDHAM		372	3855	3 0	63
STANNINGTON			5723	727	57
WHALTON	103	103	883		12
WOOLSINGTON	386	535	11787		168
TOTALS	43518	37303	44891	7157	1483
Equivalent mileage of each Type	24.55	21.19	25.67	4.06	

TOTAL MILEAGE OF ALL TYPES = 75.47

(c) **Disposal of Sewage to Neighbouring Authorities.**

1. **Gosforth Urban District Council.**

769 houses on the Brunton Park and Melton Park Estates discharge sewage to the sewer belonging to the Gosforth U.D.C. Of this total 40 new connections were made during the year.

2. **Seaton Burn Valley Joint Sewerage Board.**

The total number of premises now draining to the East and West Pumping Stations at Dinnington ; and from Hazlerigg and Brunswick Village to the Longbenton U.D.C., sewer at Seaton Burn School was 1137 as at the 31st December, 1958.

This figure represents an increase of 9 new connections during the year.

3. **Newburn Urban District Council.**

No new connections were made to the sewers draining to this Authority during the year up to the 31st December, 1958.

4. **City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne.**

(a) **Brunton Park Estate.**

389 Houses discharge by gravity to the Newcastle Corporation's Ouseburn Sewer.

(b) **Ponteland, Darras Hall, Woolsington, Kenton Bank Foot.**

Sewage discharges by pumping and gravity to the head of the Newcastle Corporation's Ouseburn Sewer, the present maximum rate of flow being approximately 200 cubic feet per minute.

(c) **New Works Undertaken During the Year.**

1. A contract was signed with Messrs. Kendall Cross Ltd., Ponteland, in the sum of £3,944 10s. 7d., for extensions to the Stannington Station Road Area Sewage Disposal Works.

Works under this contract commenced on 8th November, 1958.

2. A contract was signed with Messrs. T. D. Bird & Co., (Hexham) Ltd., for the construction of new sewerage and sewage disposal works to serve 10 dwellings at Fenwick, at a cost of £1,947 12s. 11d. Work commenced on the site on 23rd September, 1958, and at 31st December, 1958 it was 50% completed.

PRIVATE SEWERAGE PLANT.

The sewage from the large Hospitals and Institutions in the district is treated as follows :—

1. St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington.
Tanks and filter beds with revolving distributors.
2. Children's Hospital and Farm Colony, Stannington.
Tanks, filters and revolving distributors.
3. Cottage Homes, Ponteland.
Tanks and filters with trough distribution.
4. Netherton Training School.
Settling tanks, percolating filter and humus tanks.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.**PRIVY CONVERSIONS.**

There have been 23 conversions of privies to the water carriage system at the following places :—

April Cottage, Ogle	1
Sunnyside Farm Cottages, Woolsington ..	2
Cottage No. 4, Higham Dykes Milbourne	1
Cottage No. 6, Higham Dykes Milbourne	1
The Shop, Stannington	1
Delight Farm, Stannington	1
Cottage No. 5, Higham Dykes	1
Fenwick Hall Farm Cottage	1
Middle Duddo Farmhouse, Stannington ..	1
Duddo Hill Farm Cottage, Stannington ..	1
Redhouse Farm, Dissington	2
Dalton House Cottage, Dalton	1
18, South Side, Matfen	1
Kyloe House Farmhouse, Eachwick	1
West Farmhouse, Berwick Hill	1
South Dissington Farm Cottage	1
Donkins Houses Farm Cottage, Ponteland	1
West Newham Farm Cottage, Belsay	1
West End Farm Cottage, Berwick Hill	1
Farmhouse at Silverhill Farm, Dalton	1
West Moorhouses Farm Cottage, Matfen	1

23

Of the 23 conversions, 5 were assisted under the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936 under which the Council paid not more than half of the reasonable cost of the work. The remaining 18 were carried out as part of the improvements of the dwelling under the Housing Acts, 1949/52.

TABLE I.

	By Informal Action	By Formal Action	Total
Privies and Pail Closets abolished ..	21	2	23
Water Closets provided	21	2	23
Number of above for which grant was given. Housing Act 49/52 (Improvement Grant) ..	16	2	18
Public Health Act, 1936 ..	5	—	5
Ashbins provided	100	—	100

TABLE II.

	No. of Inspections during year	No. of defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects Remedied by Informal Action	No. of Statutory Notices Served
HOUSING—					
Structural defects ..		148	107	62	—
Defective Food Store ..	356	57	52	21	—
Dampness ..		135	115	97	—
Overcrowding ..		—	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY—					
Insufficient ..	18	3	3	3	—
Unsatisfactory ..		2	2	—	—
DRAINAGE—					
Insufficient ..	66	20	20	20	—
Defective ..		17	17	17	—
SAN. CONVENIENCE—					
Insufficient ..	109	1	1	1	—
Defective ..		10	10	10	—
Food Premises ..	443	8	—	8	—
Dairies and Milk Samples ..	55	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses ..	661	7	—	7	—
Tents, Vans, etc. ..	114	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces ..	116	19	—	19	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	63	27	—	27	—
Offensive accumulations ..	1	1	1	1	—
Smoke Nuisances ..	59	6	3	6	—
	2,061	461	331	299	—

CONCLUSION

To the Health and Sanitary Works Committee, and the Medical Officer of health, Doctor M. Hopper, I express my thanks, not only for the support rendered to me throughout the year, but also for the interest in the many branches of the work of the service.

My thanks are also due to Mr. J. Taylor, Mr. R. Hardy, Mr. W. Jobson, Mrs. D. McGregor and Miss Elwick, for their co-operation and the ready willingness with which they have carried out their duties throughout the year.

ERIC WM. STRACHAN,
Chief Public Health Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

